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United States Patent [19]

Hassemer

[11] Patent Number: 6,064,341

[45] Date of Patent: May 16, 2000

[54] ANTENNA ASSEMBLY

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[73] Assignee: Motorola, Inc., Schaumburg, Ill.

[21] Appl. No.: 09/078,917

[22] Filed: May 14, 1998

[51] Int. Cl.[7] H01Q 1/24

[52] U.S. Cl. 343/702; 343/901

[58] Field of Search 343/702, 900, 343/901, 906; 455/90; H01Q 1/24

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Primary Examiner—Hoanganh Le

Attorney, Agent, or Firm—John J. King; Daniel R. Collopy

[57] ABSTRACT

An antenna arrangement for a portable radiotelephone (**100**) is disclosed. In particular, the antenna arrangement generally includes a movable antenna element movable between an extended position and a retracted position, a movable contact (**243**) movably coupled to a bottom portion of the movable antenna element, the movable contact being movable between an extended position and a retracted position, and a circuit board having a first contact element (**236**), and a second contact element (**238**) coupled to ground, the first contact element receiving the movable contact when the movable antenna element is in an extended position, and the second contact element receiving the movable contact when the movable antenna element is in a retracted position for terminating the antenna.

12 Claims, 7 Drawing Sheets

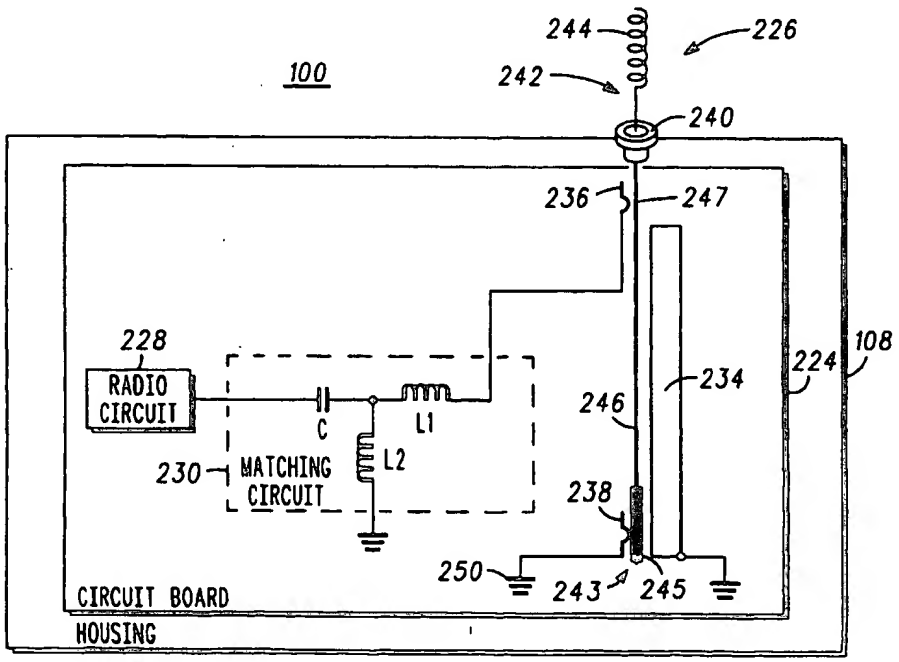
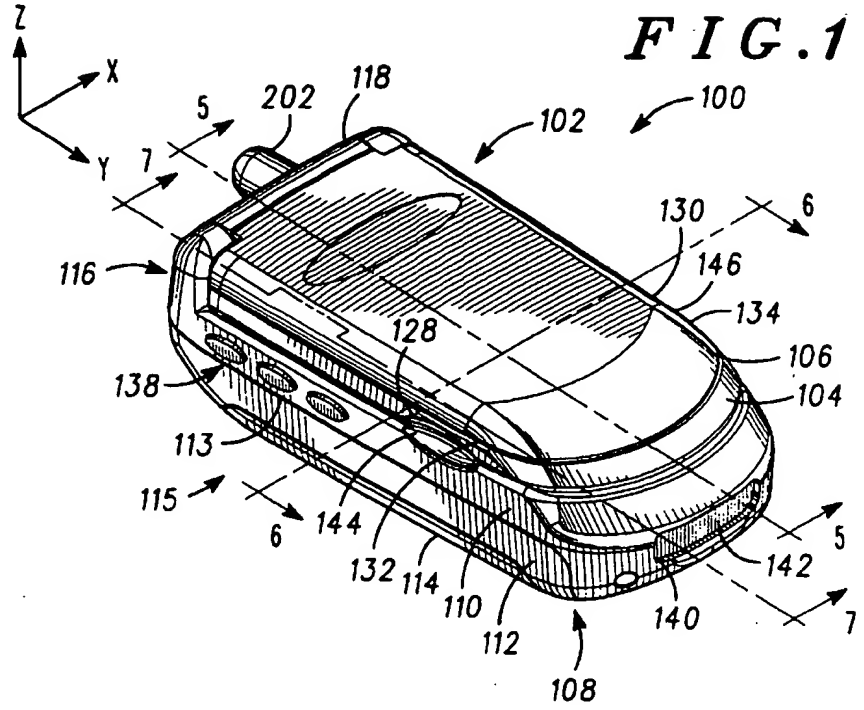


FIG. 1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X
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7
202
118
102
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130
6
146
116
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113
115
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132
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112
108
140
142
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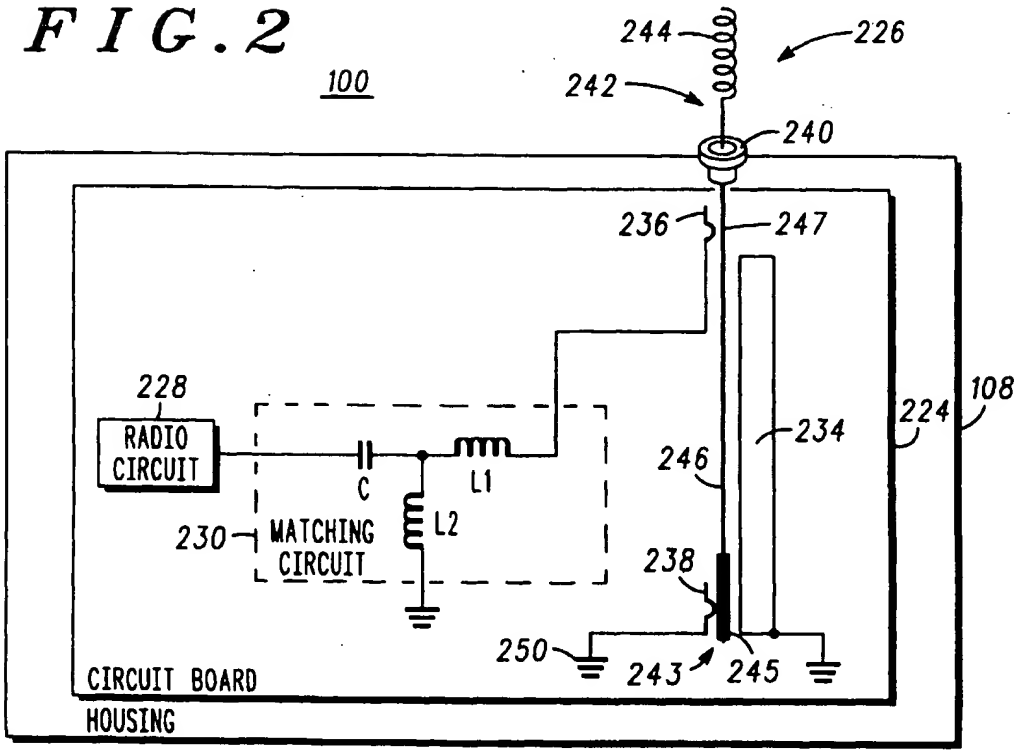
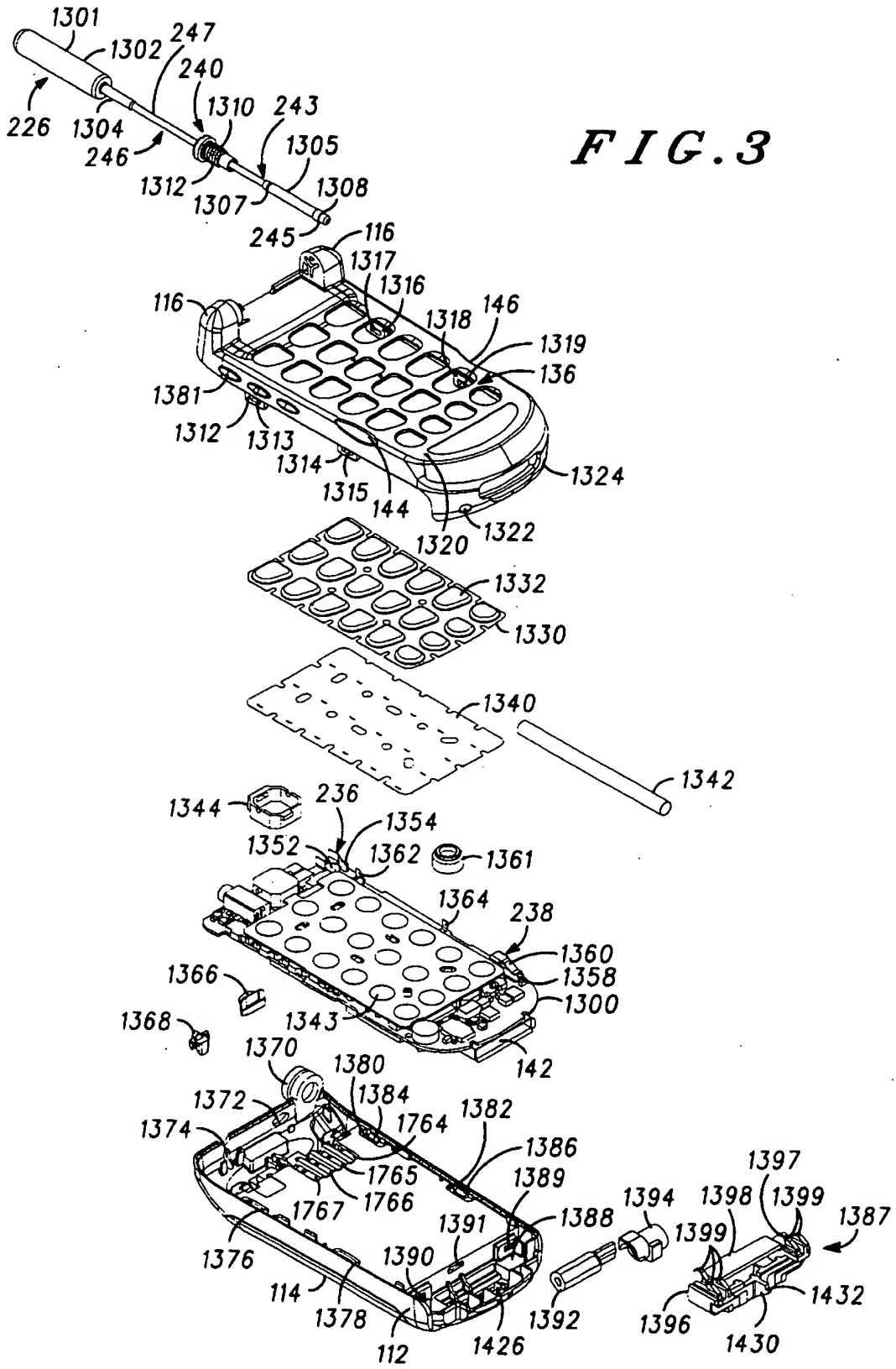
7

FIG. 2


100
244
226
242
240
236
247
228
RADIO CIRCUIT
C
L1
230
MATCHING CIRCUIT
L2
246
234
224
108
238
250
243
245
CIRCUIT BOARD
HOUSING


1301
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1319
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1314
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144
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1324
1332
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1340
1342
1344
236
1354
1352
1362
1361
1364
238
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142
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1376
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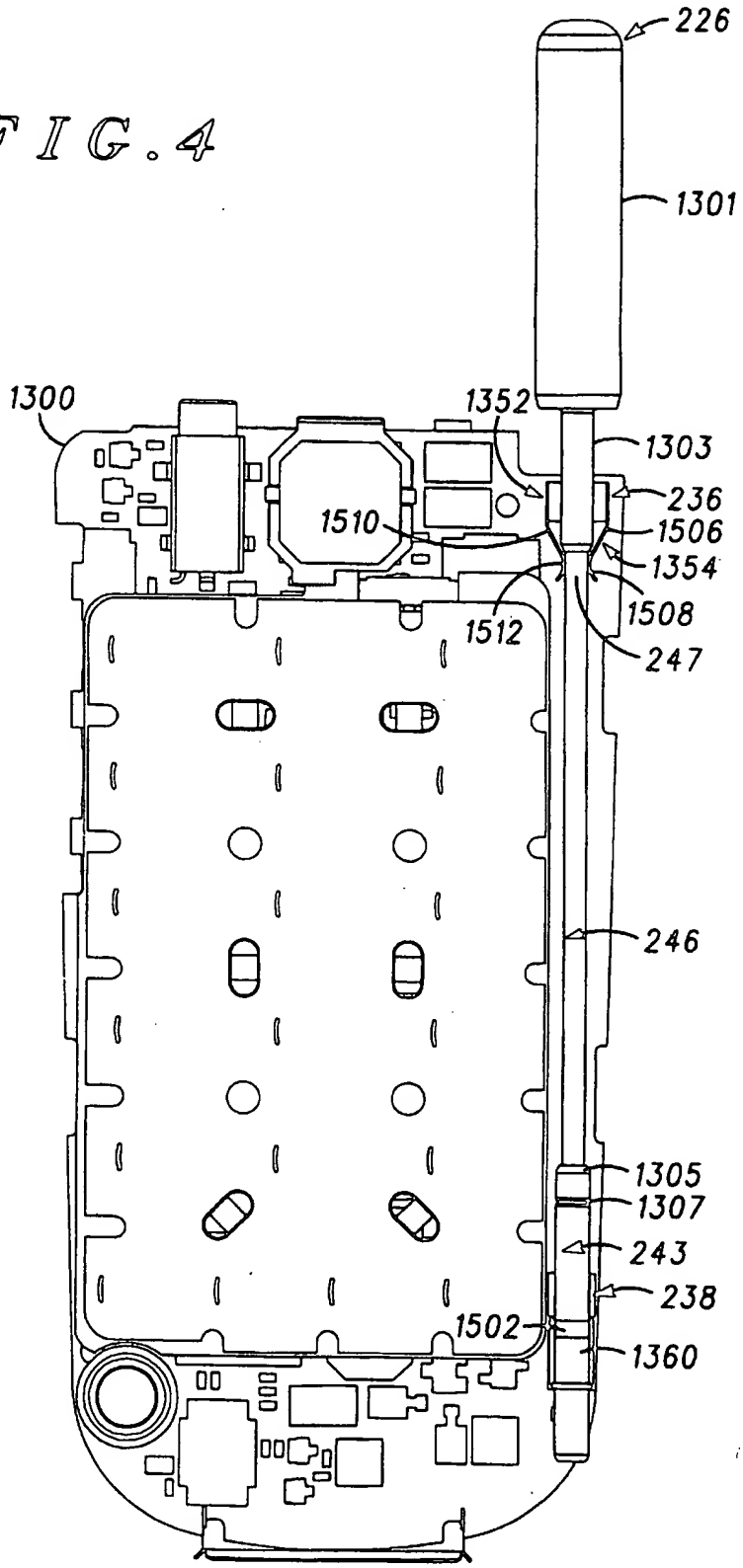
1430

FIG. 3

FIG. 4


226
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1300
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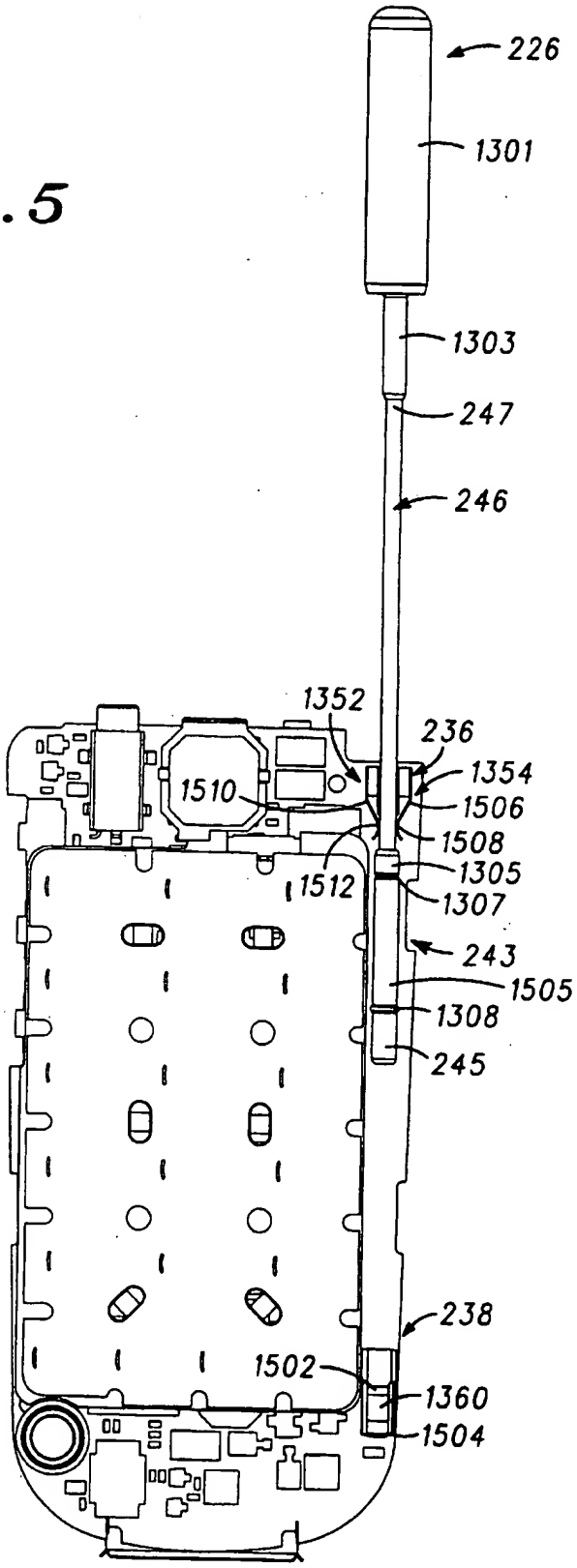
FIG. 5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1502
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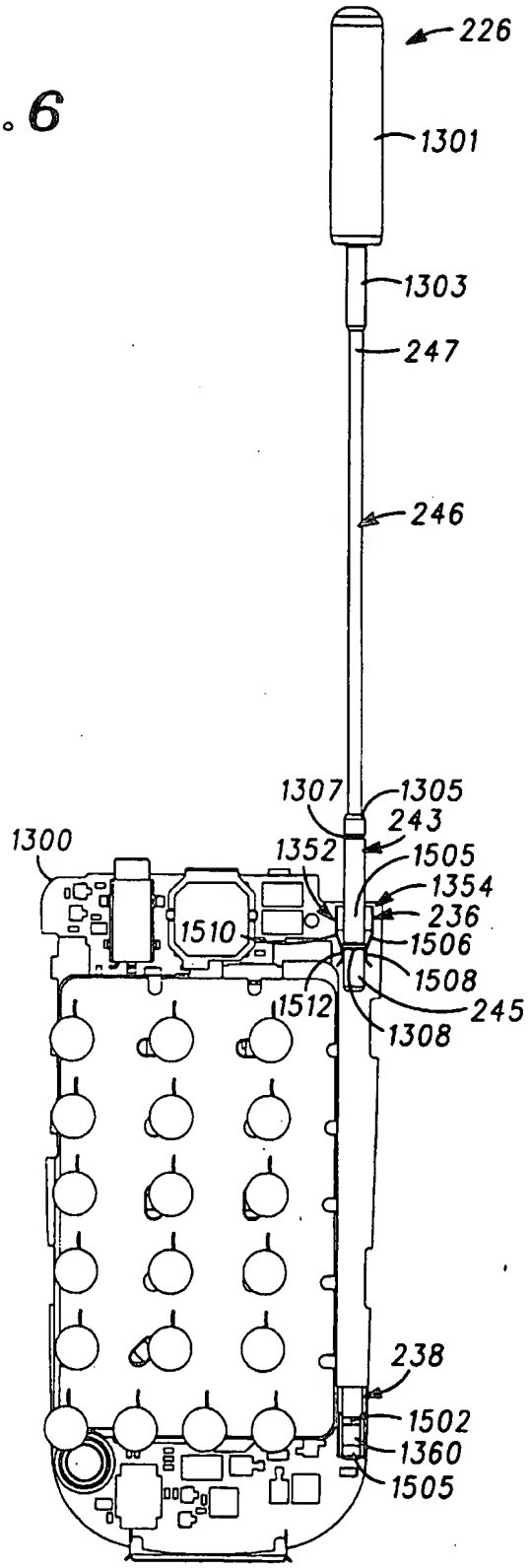
1504

FIG. 6


226
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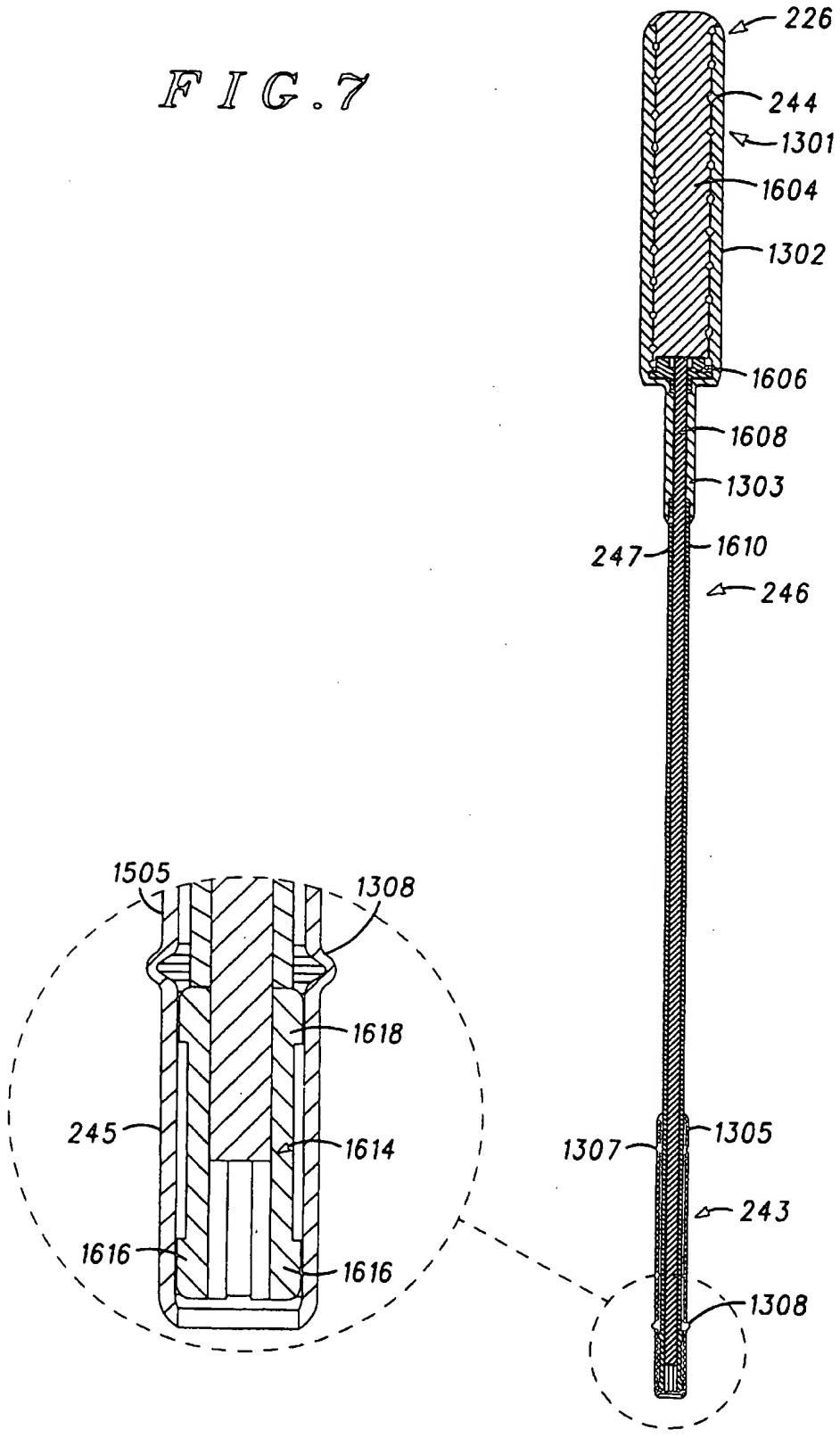
1505

FIG. 7


226
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1618
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1616
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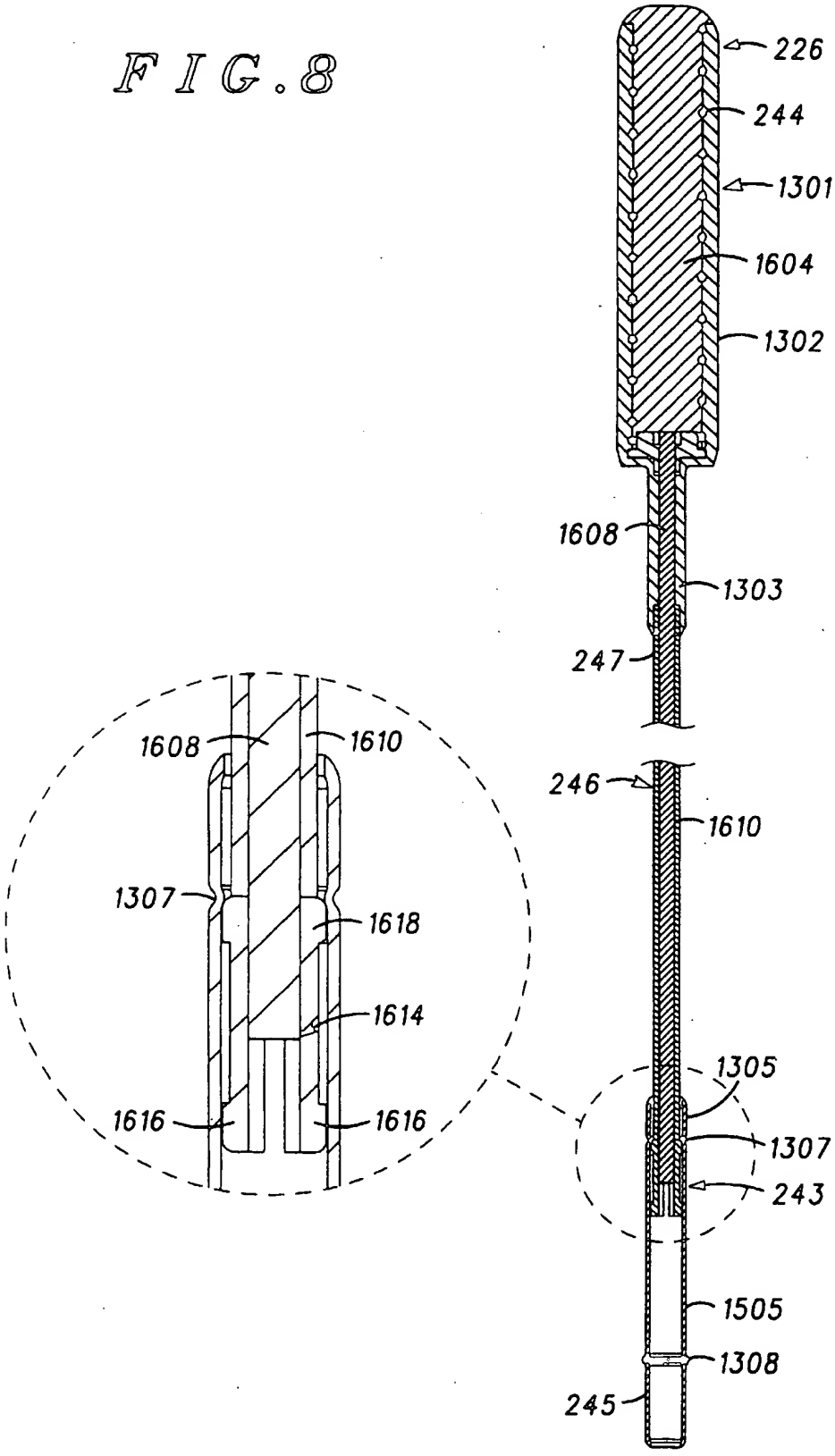
1305
243
1308

FIG. 8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ANTENNA ASSEMBLY

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates generally to the field of antenna assemblies for portable communications devices.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

As portable communication devices such as radiotelephones become smaller and lighter, the required elements of the radiotelephone must be located in a smaller area. One particular element of a radiotelephone is an antenna. Radiotelephones having a retractable compound antennas are known in the art. Some such retractable antennas are capable of receiving signals in both the extended position and retracted position.

Such retactable antennas may also be "collapsible." One type of collapsible antenna is a "telescoping" antenna, such as those commonly found on portable AM/FM radios. Another type of collapsible antenna includes a movable contact. For example, a Sony CMRX100 includes a retractable antenna having a movable contact. As shown in photograph 7 of Exhibit C (Photograph EXHIBIT LIST) in the type acceptance for CMRX100 cellular telephone granted on Nov. 28, 1995 (File No.: 31010/EQU 17.9), a movable contact is positioned at the bottom of the retractable antenna to extend the effective electrical length of the antenna when extended. However, the antenna assembly in the Sony CMRX100 provides coupling only near the top of the antenna when the antenna is in the extended position. However, such a retractable antenna has the disadvantage that the antenna portion within the housing radiates inside the housing when the antenna is in the retractable position, possibly interfering with sensitive electrical components disposed inside the housing.

Accordingly, a need exists for a compact collapsible antenna assembly for a radiotelephone or another wireless communication device.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of a portable radiotelephone in a closed position

FIG. 2 is a block diagram of a radiotelephone circuit incorporating the antenna assembly present invention.

FIG. 3 is an exploded view of the lower housing as viewed from the top, front and right side.

FIG. 4 is a top plan view of a circuit board showing an antenna in the down position according to the present invention.

FIG. 5 is a top plan view of a circuit board showing an antenna in a partially up position according to the present invention.

FIG. 6 is a top plan view of a circuit board showing an antenna in the up position according to the present invention.

FIG. 7 is cross-sectional view of an antenna having a movable contact in a first position according to the present invention.

FIG. 8 is cross-sectional view of an antenna having a movable contact in a second position according to the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

An antenna arrangement for a portable radiotelephone is disclosed. In particular, the antenna arrangement generally

includes a movable antenna element movable between an extended position and a retracted position, a movable contact movably coupled to a bottom portion of the movable antenna element, the movable contact being movable between an extended position and a retracted position, and a circuit board having a first contact element, and a second contact element coupled to ground, the first contact element receiving the movable contact when the movable antenna element is in an extended position, and the second contact element receiving the movable contact when the movable antenna element is in a retracted position for terminating the antenna.

FIG. **1** shows a perspective view of a portable radiotelephone **100**. Portable radiotelephone **100** is a portable electronic device and, more particularly, a portable electronic device that provides for wireless communication via radio frequency (RF) signals. Portable radiotelephone **100** may be operable in cellular telephone systems and is commonly referred to as a portable cellular telephone.

Portable radiotelephone **100** has an upper housing **102** and a lower housing **108** rotatably connected via a hinge **116**. Portable radiotelephone **100** has a closed position, as shown in FIG. **1**, and an open position. With such a configuration, portable radiotelephone **100** is commonly referred to as a foldable or clamshell style telephone.

Upper housing **102** is formed by a front housing portion **104** and a rear housing portion **106**. Front housing portion **104** forms a barrel **118** of hinge **116**. A display lens (visible when open) is preferably carried on upper housing **102** and is substantially flush with a front surface thereof. A finger recess **128** (optional) is formed along the front and a left side surface of upper housing **102**, and a finger recess **130** (optional) is formed along the front and a right side surface of upper housing **102**. Upper housing **102** also has an ear placement region on the front surface, where an ear of a user is positioned for listening to voice signals from a speaker. Various openings are formed on the front surface within the ear placement region.

Similar to upper housing **102**, lower housing **108** is formed by a front housing portion **110** and a rear housing portion **112**. A keypad **130** having a plurality of input keys **132**, including conventional telephone keys (0-9, *, and #) and function keys shown in FIG. **3**, is exposed on a front surface of lower housing **108** when the phone is open. In addition, a plurality of input keys **138** are exposed on a left side surface of lower housing **108**. An antenna **202** is positioned at a top surface of lower housing **108**. An opening **140** is formed on a bottom surface of lower housing **108** and exposes an electrical connector **142** provided for communication of input/output data or receiving electrical energy through a cigarette lighter adapter (not shown). A detachable battery cover **114** is detachably carried on a bottom surface of lower housing **108** and covers a battery. A finger recess **144** is formed along the front and the left side surface, and a finger recess **146** is formed along the front and a right side surface of lower housing **108**. When portable radiotelephone **100** is in the closed position, finger recesses **128** and **130** meet with finger recesses **144** and **146**, respectively, and cooperate to provide assistance for opening portable radiotelephone **100**.

Turning now to FIG. **2**, in one such embodiment configured according to the present invention, a radiotelephone comprises a housing **108**; a circuit board **224**, an antenna assembly **226**, a radio circuit **228**, a matching circuit **230**, a ground plane **234**, an upper contact acting as a feed terminal **236**, and an lower contact acting as a ground terminal **238**

coupled with a ground. Circuit board **224** is disposed inside housing **222**, and radio circuit **228**, matching circuit **230**, ground plane **234**, feed terminal **236**, and ground terminal **238** can be disposed on circuit board **224**.

Antenna assembly **226** includes a bushing **240** and an antenna, e.g., a compound antenna **242** having a first antenna portion, e.g., at least a helical coil **244**, and a second antenna portion, e.g., at least a portion of the rod portion **246**. The first antenna portion is carried by the second antenna portion and can be electrically coupled, e.g., by direct electrical contact, to the second antenna portion. Bushing **240** can be affixed to housing **222**, and compound antenna **242** is moveable within bushing **240** from a retracted position as shown in FIG. **2** to an extended position. As will be described in more detail in the remaining figures, a movable contact **243** is located near the bottom of rod portion **246**.

In the extended position the first antenna portion is located outside of the housing and the second antenna portion is substantially located outside of the housing. Further, a first coupling location **245** of the antenna, e.g., the lower end of the second antenna portion, is electrically coupled, e.g., in direct electrical contact, with feed terminal **236**. In the retracted position, the first antenna portion is located substantially outside of housing **222**, and the second antenna portion is located inside housing **222** and in close proximity to ground plane **234**. Further, feed terminal **236** is electrically coupled, for example by capacitive coupling as shown, with a second coupling location **247** of the antenna, e.g., the lower end of the first antenna portion, and ground terminal **238** is electrically coupled, e.g., in direct electrical contact, with first coupling location **245**. Although capacitive and direct coupling are shown for the second coupling location and the first coupling location respectively, each coupling location could be coupled by some other means than that shown.

Compound antenna **242** has many parameters representative of the position of the compound antenna **242**, the physical location of compound antenna **242** relative to housing **222** or feed terminal **236**, the electrical impedance of compound antenna **242**, or the strength of the electrical signal that compound antenna **242** receives.

Radio circuit **228** can be, e.g., a duplexer, a transmitter, a receiver, a modulator, a demodulator, or traces connecting the components of radio circuit **228**, or some combination of these components and traces.

Matching circuit **230** is coupled between feed terminal **236** and radio circuit **228**. Matching circuit **230** can be, e.g., a T-connected circuit with a capacitor C in one arm, an inductor L_1 in the other arm, and a ground-terminated inductor L_2 in the leg.

Those skilled in the art will recognize that various modifications and variations, in addition to those already described, can be made in the radiotelephone of the present invention and in construction of this radiotelephone without departing from the scope or spirit of this invention.

As examples, the demarcation between the first antenna portion and the second antenna portion can be defined by an area where feed terminal **236** couples with the antenna in the retracted position. Accordingly, the first antenna portion can be any part of rod portion **246**, or all of rod portion **246** and a part of helical coil **244**. Furthermore, the first antenna portion and second antenna portion can be radiating elements of different shapes. Also, instead of the second antenna portion being a quarter wavelength, ground terminated and adjacent a ground plane, it can be of a different wavelength, terminated with an impedance, or surrounded by a conductive tube that is grounded. Also, the feed contact and bushing can be the same component, and the feed contact, or the ground contact can be disposed on the housing or a component inside the housing.

Turning now to FIG. **3**, an exploded perspective view shows the lower housing **108** according to the present invention. In particular, an antenna assembly **226** adapted to be coupled to the lower housing has a top portion **1301**. The top portion is covered by a sleeve **1302** having a lower sleeve portion **1303**. Top portion **1301** is also connected to a rod portion **246** which extends to a movable contact **243** having an upper contact portion **1305**, a shoulder portion **1307** and a flange **1308**. The antenna also includes a bushing **240** having threaded portion **1312**. The coupling of the antenna will be described in more detail in reference to FIGS. **4–6**, and the structure of the antenna will be described in more detail in reference to FIGS. **7–8**.

Front housing portion **110** further includes a hoop **1312** having a recess **1313**, a hoop **1314** having a recess **1315**, a hoop **1316** having a recess **317**, and a hoop **1318** having a recess **1319**. As will be apparent, the hoops are designed to intermate with snaps of lower housing **112**. Front housing portion **110** further includes a microphone port **1320** and recesses **1322** and **1324** for receiving a detachable battery which will be described in more detail in the remaining figures. A keypad **1330** having keys **136** is shown below front housing portion **110**. A mylar sheet **1340** having poppies fits between the keypad and keyboard **1343**. An alert device grommet **1344** fits over an alert device **1346**. Transceiver board **1300** also includes feed terminal **236** having a first contact element **1352** and a second contact element **1354**, and a ground terminal **238** having a lower contact portion **1358** connected to the transceiver board and an upper contact portion **1360**. A microphone grommet **1361** covers a microphone **1363** attached to transceiver board **1300**. The transceiver board also includes antenna tube clips **1362** and **1364** for retaining antenna tube **1342**. A button **1366**, for activating a feature such as a memo recording feature of the device, and a light pipe **1368** are inserted into recesses **1372** and **1374** respectively of the rear housing portion **112**. The rear housing portion includes an antenna receptacle **1370** having a threaded portion for receiving threaded portion **1311** of portion **1310**.

The rear housing portion **112** further includes recesses **1376, 1378, 1380,** and **1382**. Snaps **1384** and **1386** extend through recesses **1380** and **1382** respectively. The snaps **1384** and **1386** engage hoops **1316** and **1318** respectively. Similar snaps are located within recesses **1376** and **1378**, but are not visible.

A contact block **1387** is adapted to fit in a well **1388** having recesses **1389, 1390,** and **1391**. A vibrator **1392** and an associated grommet **1394** fits within a recess of contact block **1387**. Recesses **1402, 1404, 1406,** and **1408** enable access to contacts **1410, 1412, 1414,** and **1416** respectively of the contact block. A contact portion **1418** and contact portion **1420** of the contact block are adapted to extend into recess **1401** to make contact to vibrator **1392** when the vibrator and grommet **1394** are inserted into contact block **1387**. In particular, a first contact **1424** on the end of the vibrator and a second contact **1422** associated with the outer housing of the vibrator are coupled to contact portions **1420** and **1418** respectively. Finally, contact block **1387** is inserted into well **1388** by inserting a flange **1430** into a hook **1434** in the lower housing. Snaps **1396, 1397,** and **1398** are then inserted into recesses **1389, 1390,** and **1391** respectively as the contact block is pivoted into the well.

Turning now to FIG. **4**, an antenna is shown in the down position attached to transceiver board **1300**. In the down

position, movable contact **243** is in contact with ground terminal **238**. In particular, ground terminal **238** includes a bend **1502** and a contact portion **1504** for making an electrical connection to movable contact **243**, in particular at a ground location **1505** above flange **1308**. When antenna is in the retracted position as shown in FIG. **4**, movable contact **243** is also shown in the retracted position. Signals from the antenna are capacitively coupled to transceiver board **1300** by way of feed terminal **236** at coupling location **247**. As the antenna is moved upward, the movable contact is advanced towards feed terminal **236** as shown in FIG. **5**. As the antenna is advanced further upward, the movable contact comes in contact with the feed terminal **236**, until it is fully extended as shown in FIG. **6**. That is, when the antenna is fully extended, the movable contact is also fully extended, as shown in FIG. **8**.

Depending upon the friction force of the movable contact (described in more detail in FIG. **7**) and the spring forces of first and second contact elements **1352** and **1354** of the feed terminal **236** and of upper contact portion **1360** of ground terminal **238**, the top portion **1301** will extend further relative to the movable contact as the rod portion extends through the movable contact. That is, the spring pressure of upper contact portion **1360** of ground terminal **238** and the first and second contact elements of feed terminal **236** can be selected to enable the movable contact to be extended when in the down position as the antenna is initially advanced upward, or after the antenna has advanced and the movable contact has made contact with the upper contact, or a combination of both. Alternatively, the spring forces of the contacts and the friction force of the movable contact can be chosen such that the movable contact is not moved with respect to the rod portion until flange **1308** of movable contact makes contact with bushing **240** and the antenna is advanced to the fully extended position.

Turning now to FIG. **7**, FIG. **7** shows an antenna with movable contact **243** in a collapsed position (when the antenna is in the down position or before the antenna is fully extended). As shown in the cross-sectional view of FIG. **7**, a helical coil **244** is positioned within top portion **1301** of the antenna. The helical coil surrounds a dielectric material **1604**, which provides support for the helical coil. The sleeve **1302** surrounds the helical coil and dielectric material and extends around a contact **1606** which connects the helical coil with an antenna element **1608**. Sleeve **1302** extends to a lower sleeve portion **1303** below the top portion **1301**. A sleeve **1610** extends below lower sleeve portion **1303** and covers antenna element **1608**.

An enlarged view of movable contact **243** shows a pair of contacts **1614** having contact portions **1616** which make an electrical contact

between antenna element **1608** and movable contact **243**. Preferably, four contacts are evenly spaced around the rod, although any number of contacts could be employed. Each contact **1614** also includes a flange **1618** which stops the movement of the movable contact downward, as shown in FIG. **8**. In particular, as the movable contact is moved downward by the force of either feed terminal **236**, ground terminal **238** or bushing **240**, each flange **1618** abuts shoulder portion **1307**, preventing any further movement of the movable contact. As is apparent in FIG. **8**, contact portion **1616** makes an electrical contact to movable contact **243** at a location near the top of movable contact **243**, effectively extending the length of the antenna.

Also shown in FIG.s **7** and **8** is an upper portion **1305** which is included to minimize the movement of the movable contact when the movable contact is fully extended as shown in FIG. **8**, such as when the antenna is bended. As stated earlier, flange **1308** prevents the antenna from being removed from the radiotelephone when bushing **240** is screwed into antenna receptacle **1370**.

While particular embodiments of the present invention have been shown and described, modifications may be made. It is therefore intended in the appended claims to cover all such changes and modifications which fall within the true spirit and scope of the invention.

What is claimed is:

1. An antenna arrangement comprising:

a movable antenna element movable between an extended position and a retracted position;

a movable contact movably coupled to a bottom portion of said movable antenna element and formed to cover at least a part of said bottom portion, said movable contact being movable between an extended position and a retracted position; and

a circuit board having a first contact element, and a second contact element coupled to ground, said first contact element receiving said movable contact when said movable antenna element is in an extended position, and said second contact element receiving said movable contact when said movable antenna element is in a retracted position for terminating the antenna.

2. The antenna arrangement of claim **1** further comprising a bushing movably coupled to said movable antenna element.

3. The antenna arrangement of claim **2** wherein said movable contact further comprises a flange which abuts said bushing when said movable antenna element is in the extended position.

4. The antenna arrangement of claim **3** wherein said movable contact further comprises a shoulder portion.

5. The antenna arrangement of claim **4** wherein said movable contact further comprises an upper portion above said shoulder portion.

6. The antenna arrangement of claim **2** further comprising a housing for receiving said circuit board, said housing having a threaded antenna receptacle for receiving said bushing.

7. An antenna arrangement comprising:

a movable antenna element movable between an extended position and a retracted position;

a bushing movably coupled to said movable antenna element;

a movable contact movably coupled to a bottom portion of said movable antenna element, said movable contact being movable between an extended position and a retracted position, and wherein said movable contact comprises:

a flange which abuts said bushing when said movable antenna element is in the extended position; and

a shoulder portion;

a circuit board having a first contact element, and a second contact element coupled to ground, said first contact element receiving said movable contact when said movable antenna element is in an extended position, and said second contact element receiving said movable contact when said movable antenna element is in a retracted position for terminating antenna; and

at least one contact element positioned within said movable contact, said at least one contact element having a flange for abutting said shoulder portion of said movable contact when said movable contact is in said extended position.

8. An antenna arrangement comprising:

a housing having a threaded antenna receptacle;

a first movable antenna element movable between an extended position and a retracted position;

a bushing movably coupled to said first movable antenna element, said bushing being threaded to mate with said threaded antenna receptacle;

a movable contact movably coupled to a bottom portion of said first movable antenna element and formed to cover at least a part of said bottom portion, said movable contact also being movable between an extended position an a retracted position; and

a circuit board positioned within said housing and having a first contact element and a second contact element, said first contact element receiving said movable contact when said first movable antenna element is in an extended position and said second contact element receiving said movable contact when said first movable antenna element is in a retracted position.

9. The antenna arrangement of claim 8 wherein said movable contact further comprises a flange which abuts said bushing when said first movable antenna element is in the extended position.

10. The antenna arrangement of claim 9 wherein said movable contact further comprises a shoulder portion.

11. An antenna arrangement comprising:

a housing having a threaded antenna receptacle;

a first movable antenna element movable between an extended position and a retracted position;

a bushing movably coupled to said first movable antenna element, said bushing being threaded to mate with said threaded antenna receptacle;

a movable contact movably coupled to a bottom portion of said first movable antenna element, said movable contact also being movable between an extended position an a retracted position, and wherein said movable contact comprises:

a flange which abuts said bushing when said first movable antenna element is in the extended position;

a shoulder portion; and

contact portions within said movable contact, said contact portions having a flange for abutting said shoulder portion; and

a circuit board positioned within said housing and having a first contact element and a second contact element, said first contact element receiving said movable contact when said first movable antenna element is in an extended position and said second contact element receiving said movable contact when said first movable antenna element is in a retracted position.

12. An antenna arrangement comprising:

a housing having a threaded antenna receptacle;

a first movable antenna element movable between an extended position and a retracted position;

a bushing movably coupled to said first movable antenna element, said bushing being threaded to mate with said threaded antenna receptacle;

a movable contact movably coupled to a bottom portion of said first movable antenna element and formed to cover at least a part of said bottom portion, said movable contact also being movable between an extended position and a retracted position and comprising a flange which abuts said bushing when said first movable antenna element is in the extended position; and

a circuit board positioned within said housing and having a first contact element and a second contact element, said first contact element receiving said movable contact when said first movable antenna element is in an extended position and said second contact element receiving said movable contact when said first movable antenna element is in a retracted position.

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